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EXCISE

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Rec'd March 17, 1950
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FROM: Brussels

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 426, March 17, 1 p.m.

King's statement of March 16 read to Presidents of chamber and Senate in presence of Prime Minister is [redacted] corroboration of last paragraph EMBTEL 415 March 16, making it very clear that although [redacted] leaves ultimate decision on his return or abdication to National Assembly, he nevertheless has mind made up that he should return.

King's statement commences by saying that 57.68 percent favoring his return expresses electorate's wish to see Parliament place an end to "impossibility of reigning". Alluding to his previous statement that he would abdicate if he did not receive "indisputable majority" of votes, King now says, "Belgian people have indicated by an incontestable majority their wish to see me resume exercise of my prerogatives". Remainder of statement stresses that it is now up to Parliament to decide what to do, and affirms willingness of King to abide by decision of united Houses. If Assembly of Parliament should decide to return his prerogatives, King stresses that principle of Parliamentary majority demands that all accept this decision. He urges that Belgians, as will he himself, forget recent passions of popular consultation campaign and closes with [redacted] "We must not lose sight of fact that at moment foreign countries have their eyes fixed on Belgium--- our internal stability, as well as prestige our country should enjoy abroad, are in hands of Parliament".

MURPHY

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